ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus are disclosed for generating television program recommendations based on a user-specified query. The television programming recommender automatically constructs a query based on previous searches that have been executed by a user. The television programming recommender can automatically initiate a search in response to a user command using the top-N search terms for each attribute that have been previously used in a query. Each time a search is initiated by the user the query is decomposed to identify the attribute-value pairs specified by the user and a counter is incremented. When an automatic search is initiated, the top-N attribute-value pairs are retrieved for each possible attribute and automatically placed in a search bin. The attributes of each program in an electronic program guide are compared to the attribute-value pairs specified in the automatic query to identify programs satisfying the limitations of the automatic query.

H:\work\1472\17497\Amend\17497.AM1.doc